AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board has undertaken studies on water and air pollution in various parts of the country including major cities/towns like Delhi, Chandigarh, Pondicherry, Goa etc. The studies on water pollution include identifying the pollutants contributed by urban/industrial developments and the quantity of liquid waste generated by major industries.

The studies on air pollution include air quality status, emission monitoring surveys in specific air polluting industries and motor vehicle emission surveys. Similar studies have also been conducted by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, Indian Oil Corporation, Delhi and Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun.

(b) The action taken include the following:

(i) Minimal National Standards (MINAS) and emission limits have been prescribed for major water and air polluting industries;

(ii) Consent orders have been issued to industries to treat their effluents/emissions as per the prescribed standards before discharge;

(iii) Task Forces have been set up to implement the standards in a phased manner;

(iv) Air Pollution Control Areas have been notified;

(v) Incentives are provided to industries for installing pollution control devices; and

(vi) Prosecutions have been launched against the defaulting industries;

Import Duty on Steel

757. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about Rs. 100 crores were lost as a result of imposing a lower import duty on steel;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered into the matter and report received;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what action Government have taken against those responsible for this loss to the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (e) Import duty on steel is levied by the Customs authorities at the prescribed rates as per the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), as amended, read with the relevant exemption notifications. Wherever this duty is chargeable on any goods with reference to their value, the decision to accept a particular value for assessment in terms of valuation provisions of Section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 has to be taken by the proper officer in the Appraising Department of the Custom Houses. The report that there was a loss of revenue on account of the discontinuance with effect from June, 1987 of the practice of charging import duty on steel at a fixed price has been looked into. It has been reported that the Customs authorities at Bombay had faced the problem of valuing imported defective mild steel sheets for the purpose of assessment and had decided to assess them at a uniform value of Deutsche Mark 650 per metric tonne with effect from

June, 1985 and at Rs. 3200/- per metric tonne with effect from March, 1986 with a view to facilitating assessment and clearance of consignments of mild steel defective sheets, the prices of which, since they are not a standard item, varied depending on their composition, thickness and size, the nature and extent of the defects, the country of supply, etc. Having regard to an order passed by the Bombay High Court in a particular case, the increasing litigation before the Appellate authorities and representations received from the concerned trade association, the issue was further examined in June, 1987 and it was decide to accept the declared invoice values except where such values, on scrutiny, were found not to be in conformity with the contemporary sale values of similar goods in terms of the provisions of Section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962.

Social forestry in Bihar

758. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of progress made in regard to social forestry in Bihar;

(b) whether Central Government have provided any financial assistance to the Bihar Government to achieve the objectives of social forestry in that State; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The details of progress made in regard to Social Forestry afforestation in Bihar during last three years as reported by the State is as under:

Year	Seedling Planted (Nos. in lakhs)	Afforestation (ha. equivalent)
1985-86	1523	76,150
1986-87	2711	1,35,566
1987-88 (Upto to Dec'87	3152	1,57,600

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details of financial assistance provided by the Central Government during above 3 years are as under:

Year	Rs. in Lakhs
1985-86	2693.01
1986-87	3337 83
1987-88 (Allocation)	2546 00